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OUR
CROCKER
ANCESTORS

By

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OUR CROCKER ANCESTORS

By James Francis Crocker.

The first of our Crocker ancestors of whom I have positive information and identity, was Edward Crocker. The early records of the proceedings of the Vestry of the Upper Parish of Isle of Wight County, Virginia, have been lost, but there is a Vestry book of said Parish commencing in 1723-4, now in the clerk's office of the Court of said County. The report of the Processioners made pursuant to the order of the Vestry January 4, 1723-4, shows that the said Edward Crocker was then in the possession of the home place where I was born, and which came down from him through successive lineal ancestors to my brother, William Andrew Crocker, and to me. The subsequent reports of the processioners show that he was in the possession of the said home place until his death. The Vestry book also shows that he and Richard Blunt were the processioners of their district in 1727.

There were a number of other Crockers in the County contemporaneous with Edward Crocker, but I never heard of any claim of kinship with any of them. The will of Edward Crocker, dated 24th of September, 1751, was admitted to record on the 2d of July, 1752. In it he mentions his two sons, William and Thomas, daughter Martha, wife of Ambrose Hadley, and his grandson, Joseph Crocker, who was the son of his son, William Crocker.

His son, Thomas Crocker, died without issue.

His son, William, Crocker, built the house in which I was born. It was a two-story house with brick gable ends and dormer windows, two rooms below and two above, with an addition containing two rooms and a hall. High up in one end of the building were two bricks, one above the other, with "William Crocker" cut in one, and "1756" in the other. A few years ago the house was burned down. My brother, J. O. Thomas, secured for me these two bricks from the ruins, and I now have them. He married ——— Milner, and surviving his wife, he died in 1791. His estate was appraised by John Thomas, William Blunt and Andrew Woodley, at £509.17. He left surviving him the following children: Joseph, William, Milner, John, Molly, Sarah and Henry. Of these I only remember Henry. He died unmarried. Molly died unmarried, but left a will dated the 2d of November, 1792, probated July 1, 1793. In it she mentions her brothers, William, Joseph, Milner, Henry and her sister, Sally. Joseph Crocker died unmarried, but testate. His will was dated March 26, 1803, probated April 5, 1803. He mentions his brother, William Crocker, and his brother William Crocker's son, John. Sarah Crocker married Tristam Godwin and died without issue.

John Crocker removed to Southampton County and there married Miss ——— Pope. He died leaving his wife and issue surviving him, who after his death moved to Northampton County, N. C. In 1860, I met at the Macon House, Portsmouth, one of his descendants, a son, Milner Crocker. Some years ago I opened up a correspondence with this branch of the family.

My letters will show who were the then living descendants of the said John Crocker.

Milner Crocker, son of William Crocker and ——— Milner, his wife, married Polly Chapman, and had the following children: Sally, Betsy, Henry, John, and William Milner. Henry and John died unmarried. Sally Crocker married Jacob Jones and left issue. Betsy Crocker married Edwin Stringfield and had Penina, Emma, Webster Chapman, Amarintha and George W. * * * William Crocker married Martha Glover and had John, Georgianna, Mary Lou, Eugenia, Lavinia, and Martha Ann.

William Crocker, son of William Crocker and —— Milner, his wife, inherited the Crocker home place. On the 18th of December, 1788, he married Elizabeth Wilson, daughter of Willis Wilson and Sarah Blunt. Rev. William Hubard, rector of the Newport Parish, officiated.

Willis Wilson was a very prominent citizen of Surry County. He was a member of the committee of Safety of 1776 (5 William & Mary Quarterly, 249). He was a member of the Court. (See Record of Surry Court.) He was Sheriff, Coroner, Major of Militia, and Vestryman. It is said that he was a lieutenant in the Revolution. If so, he was the Willis Wilson who was 1st lieutenant in the company raised chiefly in Isle of Wight and Surry, of which William Davies was Captain, Francis Boykin, 2d lieutenant, and Jonathan Godwin ensign, (1 Vol. Wirt's Patrick Henry, 350), which was of the First Virginia Regiment raised by the State, of which Patrick Henry was elected Colonel. Francis Boykin and Jonathan Godwin were from Isle of Wight; Francis Boykin was a half broth-

er of Andrew Woodley, my maternal grandfather. Two brothers of Andrew Woodley, Thomas Woodley and Henry Woodley enlisted in that company and gave their lives to the cause of independence. Willis Wilson was the son of that Sampson Wilson whose wife, Sarah qualified on his estate in 1749. The said Sampson Wilson was the son of Nicholas Wilson and Margaret Sampson, the daughter of James Sampson, whose will was admitted to probate in Isle of Wight Court the 9th of April,1689. (See will of lieutenant Col. James Powell, 19th of February, 1692, and deed of William Archer to Henry Tooker for benefit of Sampson Wilson, dated November 15th, 1694, recorded in Isle of Wight Court. See also my paper on the Wilson's of Isle of Wight and Surry.

Sarah Blunt, the wife of Willis Wilson, was the daughter of William Blunt and Elizabeth, his wife, and was the sister of Captain William Blunt, who married Mary Woodley, sister of Andrew Woodley. The said Blunts were descendants of Richard Blunt. The Blunt's home was called "Blunt's Castle," which adjoined the Crocker home. For an account of the Blunts see my paper on that family.

Willis Wilson died in 1800 leaving, surviving him his wife, and the following children: Elizabeth Crocker, Sampson Wilson, who died unmarried, Willis Wilson, who died unmarried, James Wilson and William Wilson, of whose descendants I have given an account in another paper.

William Crocker, survived his wife, Elizabeth, and died in January, 1817, leaving the following children: William (3), John Sampson, Margaret and James, all of whom are mentioned and were well provided

for in his will, which was probated on the 3d of February, 1817. He greatly added to the estate which he received from his father. He bought many tracts of land and had many slaves. His executor gave a bond of sixty thousand dollars. His will was witnessed by Andrew Woodley and his brother, Samuel Woodley, and Andrew Woodley was one of the sureties on the bond of Henry Crocker, his executor. He gave his home place to his son, James Crocker, my father. He was known as Major William Crocker, he having held that militia office. I knew all of his children.

William Crocker, son of William Crocker (2) and Elizabeth, his wife, on the 29th of January, 1817, married Mary Woodley Blunt, daughter of Captain William Blunt, and Mary Woodley, of Blunt's Castle, and had the following children: Richard, Massilan, Camilla, and Octavius, all of whom died young and unmarried. I went to school with Richard and Massilan at the Academy in Smithfield. They grew up to manhood and then died.

John Crocker on the 18th of September, 1822, married Henrietta M. C. Hoockey of Nansemond County. He owned in said county a farm called Marl Bank, near Chuckatuck, on which he lived. His wife died September 13, 1823. They had only one child, Margaret A. E. Crocker, born the 11th of September, 1823. On the 20th of December, 1842, she married Hugh K. Darden, of Nansemond County, and died the 21st of July, 1846, leaving one child, Hugh K. Darden, who lately died leaving issue. John Crocker was a Major of Militia, and represented his county several years in the legislature. He died ———.

Sampson Crocker married Sarah Rogers Blunt, daughter of Captain William Blunt and Mary Woodley. He was Colonel of Militia. He owned the Craney Island Farm in Norfolk County, where he lived and died. He, like his brothers, William and John, survived his wife many years. Like their ancestors, they never re-married. They were a generous, warm-hearted people, with true loyalty to the sacred memories of their loved-cherished dead—with hearts that once filled, never could become empty—wedded still to life's end. My own heart beats a warm acclaim to their loyalty He died ——— some years after the war. He had two children, Hamilton, who died in the Confederate service and Jules Oscar Blunt Crocker. Jules inherited the Craney Island Farm, born the 16th of October, 1825, and died intestate the 6th of March, 1890, unmarried. He commanded Co. I, 9th Va. Reg., C. S. A., of which regiment I was Adjutant. He was a gallant officer—a true, noble man, and enjoyed to the highest degree the confidence and esteem of all who knew him. His grave is at Churchland, Norfolk County. I qualified on his estate. The papers of the Chancery suit by William A. Crocker and others vs. James F. Crocker, administrator and others, instituted in the Court of Hustings for the City of Portsmouth in 1890 for the settlement of his estate, give a full account of his Crocker and Blunt heirs at law—they being all the descendants of his grandfather, Maj. William Crocker, and of his grandfather, Captain William Blunt, living at that time.

Margaret Crocker, daughter of William Crocker and Elizabeth, his wife, married Dr. Henry W. Holleman, and left one child, William Holleman, who married Belvidere Andrews, and left one child, George Henry Holleman.

James Crocker was the youngest child of Maj. William Crocker and Elizabeth Wilson. To him his father devised the home place. On the 31st day of January, 1822, he married Frances Hill Woodley, daughter of Maj. Andrew Woodley and Elizabeth Hill Harrison. At the time of their marriage he was not quite twenty years old and his wife was not quite seventeen. They had grown up together and were early lovers. They had three children: Eugenia Woodley Crocker, born the 16th of May, 1823, died the 18th of October, 1825; William Andrew Crocker, born the 4th of November, 1825; and James Francis Crocker, born 5th of January, 1828. He died on the 13th of July, 1828, in his twenty-fifth year. For a full account of my father and mother and of their descendants, see my paper on the Woodleys. For an account of the other descendants of Willis Wilson and his wife, Sarah Blunt, and of the Blunts, see my paper on the Blunts.

JAMES FRANCIS CROCKER.

April 19, 1907.